

PETALOSTEMON FOLIOSUS IN ALABAMA

In his revision of the genus *Petalostemon* (Leguminosae), Wemple (1965) suggested that *P. foliosus* Gray is perhaps now restricted in distribution to the Central Basin of Tennessee, although it was previously known to occur in northern Illinois as well. This assertion was based upon the observation that all herbarium specimens of the plant which he examined, collected in the past 50 years, were taken from limestone glades in Middle Tennessee.

The purpose of this note is to report the discovery, August 23, 1966, of two populations of *Petalostemon foliosus* on limestone outcrops in northern Alabama, an area in which the plant was not previously known to occur. One of these is a small population, consisting of only a few plants, located in Franklin County, near Russellville, along county road 79, 0.4 mile south of the intersection with Alabama Route 24 (*Baskin and Caudle 509*). The other is an extensive population, consisting of hundreds of individuals, located in Morgan County, near McKendry, along Cedar Grove Church Road, 0.3 mile north of county road 55 (*Baskin and Caudle 517*). Documentary collections from both these locations have been deposited in the herbaria of Vanderbilt University and The New York Botanical Garden.

The occurrence of *Petalostemon foliosus* in northern Alabama is not surprising in view of the environmental and floristic similarities of the two areas. Both are characterized by shallow, rocky soil which is subject to wide fluctuations in moisture content, being extremely wet during the late winter and early spring and becoming very dry during the summer months. The ecological similarities of the areas have been described by Rollins (1963) in connection with his studies of evolution in *Leavenworthia* (Cruciferae). Although no comprehensive survey of the floristic affinities of the two areas has been made, several examples of species with restricted ranges are known to occur both in the glades

of Central Tennessee and northern Alabama. Other species of legumes naturally distributed in both areas include *As-tragalus tennesseensis* Gray, *Psoralea subacaulis* T. & G., and *Petalostemon gattingeri* Heller.

JERRY M. BASKIN AND CAROL CAUDLE
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

LITERATURE CITED

- ROLLINS, REED C. 1963. The Evolution and Systematics of *Leaven-worthia* (Cruciferae). Contribution from The Gray Herbarium of Harvard Univ. No. CXCII.
- WEMPLE, D. K. 1965. Revision of the genus *Petalostemon* (Legumi-nosae). Unpublished Doctoral thesis, Iowa St. Univ. Library, Ames.